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# PERSPECTIVES

## John Glenn's voyage inspires awe

*John Glenn's second voyage to space gives NASA an opportunity to rebuild an American dream*

**T**here are few days when we can take a pause and examine, as Americans, where we have been and where we are going. Few days when we determine the pattern that will weave our cultural fabric.

When John Glenn, at the age of 77, boosted back into space, it was a day for us to reaffirm a condition that is more or less a part of our collective *human* identity; the belief that great things can be achieved when we work together.

Glenn's voyage provides Americans with the opportunity to look at space, our relationships with each other and where we are going as a nation. Unified, at least temporarily, with a sense of national identity. And unified with a sense of human identity. The bigger picture — our world and our place in the universe.

### Opinion



James Scripps

This is also an opportunity for NASA to rebuild a long-term space program, and a chance to ensure its future by becoming new to the middle school generation. It is also a chance to revive the school-age dreams that disappeared for us when the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded 12 years ago.

Putting Glenn into space is probably not necessary for the scientific knowledge that he will bring back. It is simply an attempt to rebuild NASA's image. And despite the transparency of NASA's public relations machine, there is something important and noble about how NASA is positioning itself and the United States for a revival of the

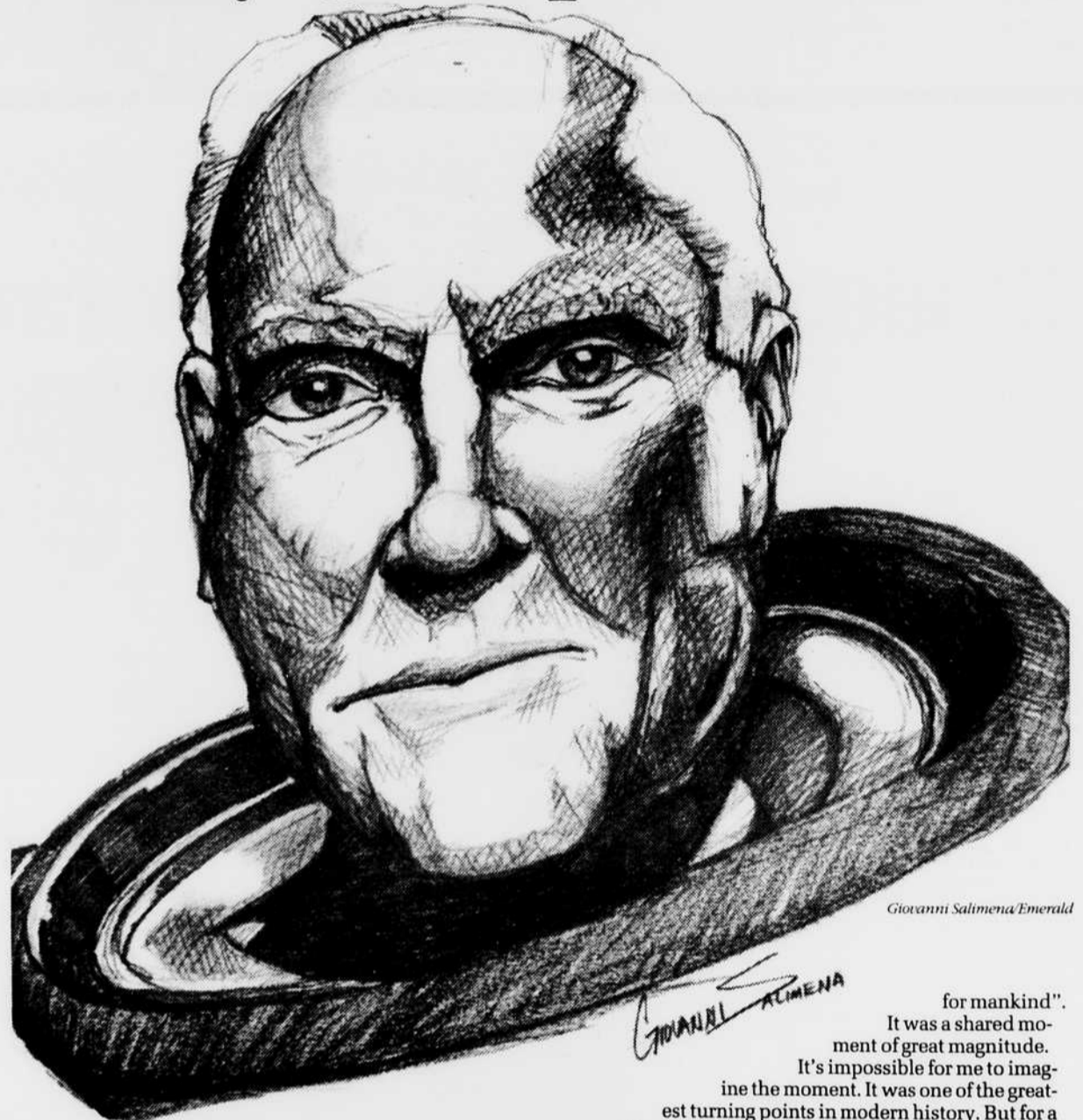
frontier spirit that played such an integral role in the creation of the space program.

Glenn's role in this strategy is to reinvigorate the debates and questions that fueled the movement which made him the first human in space 36 years ago. It was the challenge of "new horizons" in science and culture that spirited international competition to be the first country to claim the greatest expanse known to humankind.

Nearly four decades later, the space race has come to represent something bigger than the achievement of one country pitted against another. Humankind looks to the skies not to achieve domination, but to achieve cooperative enlightenment. Our greatest test has been aboard the space stations Alpha and Mir where we learned that humans cannot work in space with the same uncompromising diplomacy with which we work on Earth. Space must be different.

Glenn's second odyssey serves a dual purpose for NASA and the future of the space program. First, it makes us accept the fact that there will soon be a day when space travel will not be as technically restricted. You will simply be able to buy a ticket and fly. Second, it prepares us for NASA's greatest frontier challenge ever — the manned mission to Mars.

But in addition to giving us a glimpse into the future, this trip allows us to look into the past. Thus, in a roundabout



Giovanni Saltimena/Emerald

way, we can experience the world in a way that our parents experienced it.

It is often asked of their generation, "Where were you when Neil Armstrong walked on the moon?" Most respond that they were somewhere watching TV, listening to the scripted dialogue: "One small step for man, one giant leap

for mankind". It was a shared moment of great magnitude. It's impossible for me to imagine the moment. It was one of the greatest turning points in modern history. But for a split-second on Thursday, as the Space Shuttle Discovery lifted off to embark on its historic journey, I felt connected to that day when Americans and the world watched in awe as the frontier of the universe unfolded before them.

*James Scripps is a student activities reporter for the Emerald. His views do not necessarily represent those of the newspaper.*

## Letters to the Editor

### Rioters in the wrong

Thank you for speaking for the majority. I agree with your riot editorial (ODE 10/29) and I am glad to know that the student paper, the voice of the students of the University, is focusing on the real issues and does not look for scapegoats, be they the police or the media. Alcohol and a bunch of trouble seeking, police bashing idiots do not mix. And they are even proud of what they did!

I love the University, and I am proud of being here. I am definitely not going to let some drunken minority spoil this for me. If [the rioters] want to rip down signs and destroy lamps, why don't they do it in their own houses?

Matthias Kubr  
Environmental Studies

### Riots are like a pimple

This letter is in response to the editorial published on the web version of the ODE for 11/2/98. Although I am only able to visit the University of Oregon via the web from Minneapolis, I appreciate knowing that the university that I graduated from is alive and well. While my time at the University was almost ten years ago, I still feel a connection to this

great institution and the city of Eugene.

In what may be a first for me, I am in complete agreement with the thoughts and opinions expressed by the editors: specifically regarding the Halloween riots. I refuse to believe that a small number of miscreants should be able to infect the University with such self-centered nonsense as that which was quoted in the paper. These retarded hedonists should be recognized for who they are: immature individuals who wish to have no consequences for their actions. These people have no respect for themselves nor for others. If, as Mr. Blume points out "it's a U of O tradition," then when did breaking the law become part of the UO tradition? When did disrespect for police and our neighbors become part of our common heritage? I dare say it never has been and hopefully it never will.

Maybe we should feel sorry for these misguided individuals. Maybe we should recognize that they have a God-given "right" to party and destroy other peoples' property. Maybe we should be tolerant of their unique "party" lifestyle. Or maybe we should call it as we see it and condemn immature behavior by a bunch of spoiled brats. The situation is like a pimple on the University's collective

backside that simply needs to be squeezed.  
Joe Seidel  
University Graduate

### Police should share blame

My name is Matthew Rutman, I am a junior at the University of Oregon and a member of the Student Cooperative Association. On Halloween night I had the extreme misfortune of being present while the Eugene Police Department "took action" outside of the Campbell Club, which was having a non-keg party with internal security.

I watched the police drive down Alder Street in SWAT vans, paddy wagons and patrol cars. I watched them gather their forces across the streets under a swathe of bright lights at the tennis courts. I watched them chase people down like cattle at slaughter time-tackling and arresting several in our alley.

Never did I see the police behave in a proactive way. Never did I see them trying to diffuse the situation by using their PA systems or attempting to talk to the people. They waited and watched the crowds grow.

Meanwhile the crowds were watching the police, getting angry and frustrated. That's when they [the crowd] started acting aggres-

sive and pulling out a few signs. In my opinion a lot of the violent acts were in response to the presence and manner of the police at the scene.

How can we respect police when our experiences with them time after time have been negative. We have seen them spray our friends with pepper spray, tear gas groups of people gathering on the streets and harass people at parties. We haven't seen them in a proactive way that inspires respect. We haven't seen them bust the methamphetamine dealers that haunt our streets. We've only seen them write up minor in possession tickets and shoot tear gas canisters at us. Priorities need to be set for our police department. Since they can't seem too that on their own. I think it's time for a citizen review board to help them do it.

Matthew Rutman  
University Junior

### CORRECTION

In the caption accompanying the story "Police confront riot problem" (ODE, Nov. 2), the man in the picture should have been identified as Rick Dancer, a KEZI-TV reporter, recording police footage of Saturday's riot. The Emerald regrets the error.